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Ecuador: President Velasco is under increasing pressure to assume dictatorial powers.

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Such action has led to his downfall on three previous occasions, and Velasco may decide that he can ride out the current crisis without resorting to extraconstitutional measures. His determination to use force to limit disorders appears to have tempered student agitation for the moment, and he may shake up his cabinet in an effort to demonstrate his determination to improve the situation.

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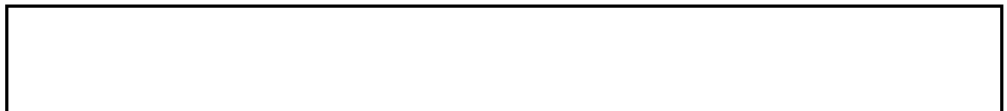


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Bolivia: President Ovando no longer appears to be the controlling influence in his own government. The US ambassador describes Ovando as "tired, discouraged, tattered and torn, without confidence," and as conveying the impression that "he was no longer the master of his own ship." In a conversation with the ambassador on Wednesday, Ovando was noncommittal on every question raised and gave the appearance of a man unable to redeem even the few commitments he had made. It appears that the leftist and extremely nationalistic civilians Ovando appointed to the cabinet have taken the initiative and are now directing the government's actions. [This deteriorating situation is beginning to spur rumors of a counter coup by disenchanted army officers.

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